

the globe. For 90 years, the Girl Scouts have given our communities an invaluable resource for young girls. I am proud to join today in expressing my sincere congratulations to them on this incredible milestone as well as to all of those who will be honored with the Gold Award.

#### HONORING SEVEN ACRES JEWISH SENIOR CARE SERVICES

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services, which celebrated the Sara Feldt Memorial Annual Older American's Day on May 12, 2002, in recognition of Older American's Month. This event pays tribute to those in our aging population that play a vital role in our communities. Many expend countless hours on behalf of hospitals, schools and philanthropic organizations.

Seven Acres began in 1943, when a small, determined group of men and women of the Jewish faith purchased a frame house on Branard Street in Houston. Their vision was to create a warm, friendly Jewish environment for fourteen elderly citizens. As the concept and the need grew, there were milestone expansions. In 1954, a new facility, with broader capabilities, was built on Chimney Rock Road, initially serving 31 and eventually accommodating 98 residents. During the 1970s, planning began for a new and innovative facility. In 1998, a major renovation created today's modern campus and was dedicated to the mission of "Honoring thy Father and thy Mother." Throughout its history, Seven Acres has promoted a sense of satisfaction with life, so that the humanity, dignity, independence, and strengths of each resident are realized to the fullest.

Older Americans Month presents us with the opportunity to draw attention to the remarkable longevity of our population and to the challenges and opportunities which will accompany population aging in the next millennium. This month highlights the fact that many of us are living longer, fuller, more satisfying lives and that we are growing stronger in the process. Seven Acres prides itself on recognizing that aging can and should be a positive experience, and that we can take charge as we prepare for our own longevity, regardless of our age today.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when America is aging and our parents are growing older, it is imperative that facilities like Seven Acres continue to provide the highest quality of care for our aging community. Our elderly are our foundation and a great source of talent and inspiration. I commend them for their good works and Seven Acres for its great contributions to the Houston community.

#### BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak on the Edwards amendment to the DOD Authorization bill, restoring \$30 million to a nonproliferation program included in the President's Budget and designed to provide an alternative to Russian reactors that generate weapons-grade nuclear materials. This amendment was unfortunately ruled not to be in order.

The Defense Authorization Act, as currently proposed, cuts by \$30 million this critical national security work. If this \$30 million is not restored in full, it would mean at least a one year delay in shutting down these plutonium production reactors, which translates into 1.5 additional tons of weapons grade plutonium that will be produced by Russia, which is equivalent to nearly 200 nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman, the demise of the Soviet empire ushered in a new post-Cold War period with unclear and unidentifiable threats and a new and very real sense of urgency, instability and insecurity.

During the Cold War, the enemy was clear and identifiable. Regrettably, that is not the case today. In addition to the traditional nuclear weapons proliferators such as North Korea, Pakistan, and China, countries such as Libya, Iran, Iraq, and stateless terrorist organizations such as Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda, are out there and are actively in search of their next deal on nuclear weapons technology and components. It is this latter type of threat—the unclear, mobile, and not easily identifiable source of threat—that compels us to continue and increase our efforts to secure Russia's nuclear weapons and materials.

In the past 11 years, while much as been done to dismantle Russia's and the former Soviet Republics' nuclear weapons, the dangers persist, and in some cases have increased. In a January 2001 report to the DOE, former Senator Howard Baker and Lloyd Cutler called the proliferation risks created by nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union the "greatest unmet national security need" for the United States."

In a speech at the National Press Club on March 29, 2001, former Senator Sam Nunn addressed the need to continue to build upon existing programs such as the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, when he said, "As we enter the second decade of the post-Cold War world. . .the most significant, clear and present danger to the national security of the United States is the threat posed by nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Nothing else comes close. The public perception of the threat is low; the reality of the threat is high. There is a dan-

gerous gap between the threat and our response. To close this gap, we must make a fundamental shift in the way we think about nuclear weapons, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and our national security.

The world has changed, and with it so too have the threats. We cannot afford to cut back on such worthwhile programs. We cannot ignore or minimize these very real threats.

Significant progress has been made thus far through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program and various State Department and DOE programs. There is still much work to be done. Efforts to defund or reduce these vital programs are detrimental to our ability to protect Americans against the very real threat from weapons of mass destruction. The President's request and Congressman EDWARD's amendment to fund a critical program in Russia was a step in the right direction.

#### SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 392, expressing solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism.

The United States Congress must stand in solidarity with Israel, a front-line state in the war against terrorism, as it takes necessary steps to provide security to its people. The United States and Israel are engaged in a common battle against terrorist groups who threaten our countries. Israel must fight against terror just as the United States must fight and destroy al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

At a time when much of the world turns its back on Palestinian terrorism and condemns Israel for exercising its right of self defense, the U.S. Congress must stand in solidarity with Israel. The ongoing wave of terror threatens the survival of Israel as a free, democratic and civilized society, and risks engulfing the entire Middle East in chaos and war. Israel also needs additional resources to meet these new threats, it must be able to protect its people from the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

H. Res. 392 reaffirms our support for Israel's right to defend itself; supports additional U.S. assistance to help Israel defend itself; acknowledges Israel's role as a front-line state in the war against terrorism; condemns the campaign of suicide bombings and terror coordinated by Arafat and other Palestinian leaders, and demands that they fulfill their commitments by once and for all dismantling the terrorist infrastructure.

I urge all parties in the region to pursue vigorous efforts to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.